

The Herald and News

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Dangerous Move

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

There is a move underfoot in the State Legislature that would give Multnomah County a stranglehold on the political affairs of the state.

They already have such a hold in legislative affairs, but up until the introduction of a recent bill, they did not have such a preponderance of control in the affairs of the State Democratic and Republican Central Committees.

The bill, House Bill 636, was introduced in the Legislature by four Democratic representatives, Vernon Cook, Multnomah County; W. O. Kelsay, Roseburg; Juanita Orr, Lake Grove; and Keith Skelton, Eugene.

The bill, however, is not partisan in nature, it would throw virtual control of both Democratic and Republican parties to Multnomah County.

The bill provides that representation on the state central committees of each party would be limited to 30 from the senatorial districts, and 60 from the representative districts.

Also, representation would be limited only to chairmen of the county central committees.

The situation it would create would be somewhat ridiculous because the net result in some counties would be only portions of a representative. Lake County would have one and seven twelfths of a representative, Lincoln County, five twelfths; Sherman County, two and one half; Malheur County, two and one third; More County, one and five twelfths and so on.

I don't know just how you cut a man up into twelfths and expect him to represent you in the Legislature.

The end result would be to give Multnomah County 24 representatives on each of the Republican and Democratic central committees.

At the present time each central committee is composed of the chairman and vice chairman of each of the counties in the state, giving every county equal representation on the state central committee. This prevents domination by any one group or sector.

Traditionally, women serve in the capacity of vice chairmen of county central committees. Under the current bill, vice chairmen could not serve on the state central committee which would very neatly remove most of the women from the state political scene.

There's an additional feature in the proposed bill that would take another advantage away from the people. This one would give the state central committees the right to select their national committee men and committeewomen. At present, the state at large elects these two national representatives on the ballot. They would lose this right under the proposed bill.

It would also again tend to throw the choice to Multnomah County who would have 24 votes in the committee, Klamath County, for instance, would have four representatives on the state committees.

It is true as proponents of the bill say that Oregon and Florida are the only two states that elect their national committeemen and women, but it's fair to point out also that all the other states have the county convention system which includes participation by hundreds in the selection, and not by a small group.

The bill, if passed, would have a profound effect on the future politics of Oregon, and would give Multnomah County virtual control of all future political operations, both Democratic and Republican.

This is the type of discriminatory legislation that should draw protests from every citizen who reads this, including those in Multnomah County who are intent on fair play and equitable representation in the political affairs of our state.

Let's all write our legislators and protest this bill. It's to our future benefit to do so today. The bill has had two readings and is currently in the State and Federal Affairs Committee of the House.

New Approach

By FLORENCE JENKINS

State Senator Harry D. Bovin is asking Klamath County voters for opinions on a proposed three per cent sales tax measure which would add funds for education.

He has placed a paid advertisement in today's Herald and News to be filled out, clipped and mailed to him at Salem so that he will be in a position to express the opinion of the majority of the residents of the county he represents.

Action by this session of the Legislature on this proposal sponsored by Multnomah County Sena-

tor Walter J. Pearson would place a measure on the ballot at the next general election relating to a sales tax.

If passed, a three per cent sales tax would be levied in Oregon. Food and drugs would be exempt from the tax.

The proceeds of the tax would be used to increase basic school funds for education. The \$105 per child now allotted by the state has been the subject of much controversy in Salem during this session. At least two measures have been brought out which would increase the basic aid by twenty dollars per child or more. Some increase seems certain and the money has to come from somewhere.

By providing the needed funds through a sales tax (and maybe looking at the expected several million visitors to Oregon during this centennial year), it is proposed to reduce individual income tax rates by establishing larger individual exemptions.

Proponents of the measure claim it would permit the reduction of property taxes on the average of forty per cent.

Reduction of income tax payments and a drop in property taxes have been pinpointed as necessary planks in a program to entice more industry and more people to Oregon.

Whether or not a sales tax, earmarked for one department, is the way to handle the prickly problem of balancing the financial budget, will, of course, be up to the voters in Oregon to determine. A general sales tax has met defeat in the past but maybe it is time now to take a good, careful second look.

1859

By TOM STIMMEL

We've heard much about what happened in Oregon 100 years ago. Here are a few things that happened elsewhere in 1859:

John Brown moved his abolitionist army from Kansas to Virginia, captured an armory at Harper's Ferry, and was hanged for his trouble.

The first oil well in history blew in on a Saturday afternoon at Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Charles Darwin published "The Origin of the Species."

An adventurer named Emil Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tight rope.

"Dixie," later adopted by the Confederate Army as a marching song, was written for a minstrel show.

The Santa Fe Railroad was chartered.

A group called the Knights of Golden Circle urged the United States to conquer Central America to obtain more slaves.

The Comstock Lode was discovered in Nevada.

A Navy captain claimed Midway Island for the United States.

Dickens wrote "A Tale of Two Cities." Fitzgerald translated "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," and Gounod wrote "Faust."

Pierre Curie, A. Conan Doyle and Alfred Dreyfus were born.

Washington Irving, Lord Macaulay and Horace Mann died.

The national debt was \$58,496,837.

Code Of Ethics

By FRANK ELEAZER

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Write your congressman now for your red, white and blue copy of Congress' new code of ethics. The supply won't last. Better yet, make sure he keeps one for himself.

Only 13,830 copies are to be printed, at a cost of \$2,976. This includes a double envelope and cardboard stuffer for mailing.

Some members thought this wasn't enough. Others said it was too much.

SHORT RIBS

By Frank O'Neal

